(b) if so, whether according to 1985 Rules 20 KG of wheat and 5 KG of Rice per adult per month are prescribed, whereas at present actual supply is 6.5 Kg. of wheat and 1.8 Kg. of rice per unit per month;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for this reduction;

(d) what are the actual allocation that are being made in respect of wheat and rice;

(e) what are the total ration card holders and what are the total No. of fair-price shops; and

(f) what steps are being taken to improve the working of PDS and timely supply of allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The scale of issue was laid down in 1985 by Delhi Administration. The Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has reported that an adult living in JJ clusters or colonies is given 8 kg. of wheat per month. The allocation of foodgrains received from the Central Government is sub-allotted to Fair Price Shops (FPS) depending upon the number of units attached to each, NCT of Delhi is allotted 72,000 tonnes of wheat and 20,000 tonnes of rice per month by the Central Government for distribution through the Public Distribution System. The allocation for Delhi has almost been uniform over the last few years.

Levy sugar is issued at the rate of 800 gram per adult/child per month. Levy sugar allocation was augmented by an additional allocation of 1200 tonnes per month since July, 1993.

There is no shortage of supply of cereals to FPSs. PDS allocations are supplementary in nature and are not intended to meet the total requirement of any State.

(e) The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that there are 26.16 lakh ration card holders and 3437 FPSs in Delhi.

(f) The Central Government makes bulk allocation of commodities to States including Delhi 3 weeks before the preceding month for which the allocation relates. NCT of Delhi has reported that vigilance committees has been set up at FPS level consisting of card holders. Senior officers of the Administration have been advised to visit FPS during inspection. The Vigilance Committee members are encouraged to visit FPS frequently to which they are attached and bring to the notice of the Administration the quality of food articles supplied, behaviour of FPS holders, availability of stocks at FPSs etc. Meetings were held with various FPS holders association advising them to strictly follow the instructions issued by the Administration Officers of the Food and Civil Supplies Department regularly visit FPSs to check/prevent malpractices.

Advisory Committee on P.D.S.

266. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of high powered pubic Distribution System Advisory Committee was held in September, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the main issue discussed was removing of the creamy layer of the society from the purview of PDS's benefit;

(c) if so, what were the main recommendations made by the Committee in this respect;

(d) whether the issue was referred to the National Development Council (NDC); and

(e) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main recommendations are given in enclosed statement (*See below*)

(d) The Advisory Council on Public Distribution System resolved that the Report of the Committee of Ministers may be referred to National Development Council for consideration and for evolving acceptable policy guidelines on PDS.

(e) Decision would be taken after considering all the recommendations.

Statement

Recommendations of the Committee

For ensuring better food security to the poorer sections of the population, It is desirable that about 28 Kgs. of foodgrains should be made available per month to every family of the vulnerable population. However, given the present constraints in the availability of foodgrains it is imperative that atleast 20 Kilograms are made available per month to every such family through the PDS.

In order to ensure that larger and more meaningful quantities of foodgrains reach the realy needy and poorer sections it is inescapable that the relatively better of sections of the population are excluded from access to the PDS in respect of foodgrains.

Income criterion is the best criterion for exclusion of relatively better off categories from the PDS. However, considering the difficulties in translating this criterion into actual practice, an alternate workable modality could be to determine a number of categories of persons which can be considered as ostensibly better off and clearly non-poor for exclusion.

The Central Government should issue guidelines on the categories to be excluded as discussed above. To recapitulate, the illustrative list of such categories is as follows :—

(1) Income Tax assessees.

(2) Professionals like Doctors, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, Architects, Engineers etc.

(3) Sales Tax Assessees (shopkeepers and traders).

(4) All those registered under the Shops and Establishment Act.

(5) Employees of Government, Public Sector and Private Sector (in cases at serial Nos. 3, 4 and 5 an income limit can be prescribed and implemented by the State Governments/ UT Administration).

(6) For the rural areas categories other than landless labourers, rural artisans, share cropers, small/ marginal farmers, all families identified as eligible for the benefits under IRDP and others, if any, in similar economic conditions.

State Governments and UT Administrations should implement the guidelines with full political and administrative determination. The State Governments which are responsible for the administration of the Public Distribution System should issue detailed orders on the modalities of implementation of the policy. They may make necessary modifications keeping in view local conditions, but within the spirit and aim of the policy.

The quantity of foodgrains and other commodities being issued by the Central Government to different States and UTs should not be reduced, but may have to be increased where necessary, as it would otherwise defeat the purpose of more

meaningful quantities being delivered to the needy and deserving.

State Governments/UT Administrations may consider a policy of excluding the relatively better off sections from access to PDS (levy) sugar supply, so that higher allocations can be made to the poorer sections.

Supplies of PDS Kerosene oil should continue to be made universally. However, holders of double bottle LPG connections may either be excluded from entitlement of kerosene or given a reduced scale.

Steps should be taken on a continual basis to strengthen and streamline the delivery system so that the minimum quantities envisaged to be delivered to the vulnerable sections can reach them regularly.

Increases in Central Issue Prices of foodgrains should not necessarily be related to increase in Minimum Support Prices. End Retail Prices should be kept at considerably lower levels than market prices so as to make the PDS effective.

The Central Government should adopt suitable policy measures to increase production and procurement of common rice of acceptable quality for supply of the PDS.

The Central Government should undertake movement and stocking of PDS foodgrains in different areas in consultation with the State Governments and UT Administrations.

Efforts should be made to improve the quality of foodgrain supplied for the PDS.

Option should be given to States/UTs to receive their allocation on quarterly basis instead of the present system of monthly allocations.

Strengthening of PDS in the Country

267. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take to strengthen and broaden the Public Distribution System in the country as social safety measure in the context of the ongoing structural adjustments in the economy;

(b) whether Government have issued any instruction or guidelines to the State Governments in this regard, if so, what are the details thereof:

(c) the extent to which each State Government has so far implemented and adopted the instructions/guidelines of the Central Government for strengthening and broadening the Public Distribution System; and

(d) what is the percentage of population in poor and backward classes in each State covered and deriving benefits under the Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Matters relating to strengthening and streamlining of the Public Distribution System (PDS) are discussed at the meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS, of which the State Governments are members. In order to improve the reach of the PDS in farflung, remote, hilly, tribal areas etc. about 1752 blocks were identified in consultation with the State Governments which are covered by various area specific programmes such as Drought Prone Area Programmes (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Designated Hill Areas (DHA) and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP). The Central Government has earmarked an additional 2 million tonnes of foodgrains for distribution in the identified areas under the Revamped PDS at a specially subsidised prices. The State Governments were requested to take action for opening additional fair prices shops in unserved or under served areas, issue additional ration cards to people not so far covered, create storage capacity for stocking of foodgrains in the interior areas, make